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Early Childhood Experiences At Home Key Factor in Child's Achievements

by Jeanne Clabough
(Last of a series of four articles)

Author's note: The 6-week Adult Education Class on parenting (Child-rearing) begins this Thursday (February 1) 7-9 p.m. at ACHS. The purpose of this series of review articles has been to generate interest in this class and in a child's preschool years by introducing readers to the book that is having a strong impact on parents and communities throughout the country in their approaches to child-rearing. The **First Three Years of Life** *by Burton L. White is the result of years of research showing that the experiences you provide for your preschooler at home affect all of his later abilities to learn and interact effectively with others. There is probably nothing else that you can give a child that will benefit him, his parents and society more than giving him the right kinds of experiences in his early years of life. If you are interested in understanding the early experiences that lead to well-developing children and putting these practices to work at home or in our community, I hope you will consider attending the up-coming parenting class or at least read* The First Three Years of Life *and that you will share your ideas and opinions on this subject with me. (For details about the class call the school board office at 352-8253 or Mrs. Clabough at 352-5593.*

Phase VII (24 - 36 months) marks the end of babyhood and the beginning of childhood. During his third year of life, the well-developing child makes tremendous gains in language ability, begins to engage more and more in creative (building, drawing, etc.) and pretend activities, shows a genuine interest in children's TV shows, begins to show interest in playing with other children and starts to show all of the dimensions of competence (listed in last week's article, behaviors 1-14). Recommended child-rearing practices for this phase are those that foster these dimensions of competence. The following are just a few key points from Dr. White's discussion of such practices.

1) When a child shows affection, accept it and return it. When he shows annoyance, try to understand it and give him some leeway along with setting your limits for such action.

2) There is no need for large numbers of children in the life of a two-year-old, but playing with a variety of children (not the same one all of the time) is beneficial. Peer play at this age should be closely supervised.

3) The well-developing child is interested in achievement and praise, but you do the child no good by praising him for work considerably below his ability.

4) In most of their pretend play, well-developing children assume adult roles including those of "super heroes." (Parents of budding Batmen and Wonder Women take heart!) Children not developing so well more often act out the parts of babies or animals.

5) "By the time a child reaches three, he should be able to understand (but not necessarily use) the majority of all language he will use for the rest of his life in ordinary conversation." (This statement alone suggests the tremendous responsibility of the person caring for a child under three.)

Child-rearing practices not recommended for this phase are:

1) An over-emphasis on intellectual growth such as "educationally powerful" nursery schools and expensive educational toys, especially if these are at the expense of physical and social development.

2) Unsupervised play groups including day care or nursery schools where play is not closely supervised by someone aware of the potential harm of peer intimidation.

3) Overindulgence. Especially in Phase VII. Dr. White recommends a loving but firm hand.

Section II of **The First Three Years of Life** covers many important topics related to child-rearing. These include spacing children, day care should you or shouldn't you? guides to professional services and information about childrne, professional testing, role of the father, what happens after 36 months of age? and what will the future bring? A few striking remarks from this section are:

1) "Try not to have your children closer than three years apart."

2) Vision and hearing are so important to educational development that they should be tested in the first year of life.

3) Full-time day care is inadvisable for the child under three, but part-time day care may very well be better than none at all PROVIDED the quality of the day care you choose has been proven good.

4) "If anyone could do as good a job as a mother in providing beneficial early childhood experiences . . . it would be the father." There is "nothing that a mother does (except breast-feeding) that a father could not do."

5) As to the future, Dr. White is confident that high schools will require both boys and girls to participate in courses on human development and child-rearing, that maternity wards will offer mini-courses on these topics and that families will continue to have the responsibility for the early education of their own children, but through the efforts of the public education system and the medical profession they will not have to go it alone.

Dr. White concludes his book by saying that there is no job a person can hold that is more important in humanistic terms than raising a child in the first three years of life, that the most difficult time for most parents is the second half of the second year (Hang in there Moms and Dads.) and that "What you need to do a good child-rearing job is a strong feeling of love for the child, a great deal of patience and stamina and some degree of knowledge." (And the greatest of these is love.)

Zion Baptist

You are cordially invited to attend the regular preaching service at the Zion Baptist Church Sunday February 4 at 11 a.m. The guest speaker for the hour will be the Rev. Charles Lewis of Madison Height.

You are cordially invited to attend the Men's Club 36th Anniversary of the Zion Baptist Church February 25, 1979 at 2:30 p.m. Our guest speaker for the hour will be the Rev. E. R. Berryman Sr. from the White Rock Baptist Church of Lynchburg, Virginia and Senior Choir. Along with the Male Chorus of Zion Baptist Church and the Male Chorus from the Triumph Baptist Church of Darlington Heights, Virginia. The Senior Usher's Board meet Sunday at 11 a.m. at the Zion Baptist Church with President Mrs. Mattie Lawson. Our Secretary Mrs. Nannie Johnson recording the minutes. Mrs. Magonilia Franklin was in charge of the devotions. The minutes read, adopted and the roll called and dues taken. The offering was very good. Mrs. Dorothy Ligon was appointed for our program chairman for our anniversary. After special remarks from our president our meeting adjourned to meet next month. You are cordially invited to attend. The Deaconess Board of the Zion Baptist Church will have its 3rd Anniversary February 4 at 3 p.m. Our speaker for the hour will be Rev. Eatson from Lynchburg, Virginia.

Mrs.. Florence Franklin Watson formally of Pamplin, sister of the late Deacon James Franklin died in Philadelphia Sunday morning. Sympathy is extended to the family. Deacon Ross Edwards returned home from the Lynchburg General Hospital after receiving special treatment. Mrs. Mildred Wheeler remains in Lynchburg hospital. We are praying for our sick everywhere.

Those visiting Deacon Ross Edwards since returning home from hospital are Mr. and Mrs. R. K. Martin and Deacon Robert Chambers.

Funeral services will be held Friday at 1 o'clock in Ohio for Mrs. Florence Franklin Watson.

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THE BIBLE AND DAILY LIVING

By Dr. William L. Trimyer

The Church In Society

Lesson for February 4, 1979
Background Scriptures:
John 17:14-26; James 1:22-27
I Peter 3:8-16

". . . be doers of the word, not hearers only, so as not to deceive yourselves."

NO PLACE FOR HERMITS!

The seventeenth chapter of John contains a striking prayer of Jesus for his disciples who are to proclaim the message of liberation to a Godless world. It is a prayer that reveals a great deal of who Jesus was and what his mission was about. In his prayer he prays for disciples then and now who will go out to attempt to lead the world back to God.

In the last decade we have heard prophetic voices raising a concern that the church must be involved in society. The voices echoes from the ancient prophets like Amos and Hosea. They have cried for justice and mercy to be practiced for all humanity. Happily, the church has begun to get involved in areas of society which affect the quality of human life.

Christ himself was no hermit. He involved himself in the marketplaces of human life where people were hurting. The kind of Christianity which buries itself in a monastery or convent is incompatible to the ministry of Jesus. Endless "God Talk" may not get at the places where people are struggling. A constant harping about the "sweet by and by" doesn't help matters in the "dirty here and now." If the church does not bear fruits which are relevant to the needs of the people, please will see no relevance in needing the church.

Christ sends his disciples into society to affect change. He prays for us and urges us on in the struggle to bring the Kingdom of Heaven to bear on earth. He prays that Christians everywhere will join together in unity to fight the Evil One, the demonic forces which do people in.

A Mirror Doesn't Lie!

The Book of James is a powerful message on the actual practice of the Christian faith. James provides Christians with an ethical smorgasbord for dealing with the "nitty gritty" problems and sins in everyday life.

In James 1:22-27 James drives home the hard hitting notion that doing is certainly as important as hearing. People have always thought there was great merit in simply hearing a sermon. James would be the first to argue that belief in Christ as Savior and Lord is paramount in importance to salvation. So he exhorts his readers to put their hearts and hands to work rather than mastering the art of hearing. In other words, a sermon is not an end in itself. From hearing we go out to serve in the Name of Christ.

The mirror illustrates the point. We do not always like what we see when we peer into our mirrors, particularly in the morning! Most of us will stop to wash, shave or put on makeup before we go to work. James, however, is talking about people who are aware that they are not being all they could be. It's like seeing for a moment but then failing to follow through with change. It's like hearing and not doing.

"Pure religion" is not measured by the words of our mouths but by the concern and action expressed in daily living. If a person thinks he is religious, but does not practice what he preaches, that person is not in tune with God.

Be A Good Specimen!

The author of I Peter urges the Christian on to act out his or her faith with love. There is not greater witness than to live in the manner that Jesus lived. We are to bless that we may receive a blessing. That's a strange paradox! Christians are called upon to "bless" others with a warm, compassionate spirit. In other words, Christians are to reflect a positive difference from the negative indifference within the world.

We can bless others through our concern, our honesty, our life styles, and our warmth as human beings. We can bless others by recognizing them as persons of worth. Through compassion, not judgment and criticism, we can move people to see and know Christ through our warmth and concern.

(Dr. Trimyer is pastor of Elon Baptist Church in Pamplin City, Virginia.)

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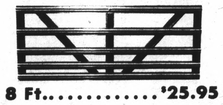
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Rocks

January 29 - The ice storm of the past week end put out power for many people in the community and caused a lot of problems.

Mrs. Flossie Hubbard passed away at a hospital in Richmond on last Monday. Also Miss Odell Webb at a hospital in Charlottesville. Sympathy is extended the families of these bereaved ones.

Herbert Goin of Unico, Tennessee arrived Wednesday to visit his sister, Mrs. Carrie Richardson for a few days and his other sister, Mrs. Flora Dickerson.

Mrs. Ruby Almond, Mrs. Phyllis Richardson and Mrs. Alice Cumby attended the funeral of Mrs. Flossie Hubbard at Olivet Branch Church on Wednesday afternoon.

Glad to see Edward Ranson at church Sunday after being in for a few days last week and to Tony Inge who was quite sick on Friday afternoon. He was able to be out on Sunday.

Monday was Baptist Men's Day. It was a good for all at Rocks. The men had charge of the evening service. Around 50 came out for the breakfast at 8 o'clock.

The State Evangelism Conference at Roanoke Civic Center will be from Monday afternoon through Wednesday, January 31.

W.M.U. Focus Week is February 11 - 17. All who can come on out and take part in this.

Home Mission Studies also. The State V.B.S. Clinic for Association Teams will be at Eagle Eyrie February 23, 24. V.B.S. is a part of Bold Missions in each of our communities.

Rocks Church is working with Peachem Bible Fellowship in East Peachem, Vermont. Plans are underway in ways that assistance may be given this group of Christian brothers and sisters later on.

It was a make up day at school on Saturday.

Bob Martin will enter Virginia Baptist Hospital for a tonsil operation on Wednesday.

The Young Hearts Club had their meeting at Rocks on last Thursday. Rev. A. M. Taylor was the guest speaker.

Ruby Almond played for the Bushey funeral at Piney Ridge Church Monday afternoon (today).

HURTSVILLE NEWS

The extension school of Seminary College will have a quartet singing Friday night February 2 at 7 o'clock at Bluestone Center, Keysville, Virginia.

Miss Marilyn Washington is doing her student teaching in Prince Edward County.

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